(b) the number of applications pending and cleared so far;

(c) the steps taken for early clearance of these applications;

(d) the number of applications of SCs/STs, Ex-Servicemen, Women and Handicapped persons cleared among them;

(e) whether the most of the PCO/STD booths in Western Rajasthan are not working; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The SSA-wise information is given in the Statement.

(b) 7840 applications have been cleared and 10034 applications are pending.

(c) STD PCO allotment committee meetings are being held regularly and STD PCOs will be provided to the applicants subject to technical feasibility and fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

(d) 1160 applicants of these categories have been cleared.

(e) and (f) Sir, the STD PCO booths are by and large working satisfactorily. Complaints of faults whenever received are attended to promptly.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of S.S.A.	No. of application received during last three years
1	2	3
1.	Alwar	929
2.	Ajmer	1079
3.	Bharatpur	339
4.	Banswara	267
5.	Bhilwara	513
6.	Bundi	include in Sawaimadhopur
7.	Bikaner	946
8.	Barmer	581
9.	Churu	243
10.	Chittor	365
11.	Jaipur	6702
12.	Jodhpur	667
13.	Jhunjunu	478
14.	Jhalawar	included in Kota
15.	Kota	690
16.	Nagaur	510
17.	Pali	368
18.	Sawaimadhopur	286
19.	Sirohi	428
20.	Sriganganagar	461
21.	Sikar	527
22.	Tonk	49
23.	Udaipur	1446

Special Concession to Foreign Investors

2647. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plan to give special concession to foreign investors for investments in the various power projects to be commissioned in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign investors have since come forward for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) In the context of paucity of resources in the public sector a policy to encourage private sector participation in power generation and distribution has been formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation. The policy is equally applicable to projects being set up by domestic as well as foreign investors.

(c) to (e) During the period from August, 1991 to May, 1997, 45 projects specific proposals, envisaging a total

capacity of 20.047 MW, have been approved for foreign direct investment in the field of power generation in the private sector.

[Translation]

Power Projects in U.P.

2648. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects on which work is going on in Uttar Pradesh as on 30th May, 1997;

(b) the number of power projects on which work has been stopped;

(c) the reasons for not starting construction work on these incompleted projects;

(d) the expenditure incurred so far and likely to be incurred in future on Vishnu Prayag Power Project in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) the total number of Power Stations/Sub-stations in U.P. at present; and

(f) the total Power generated during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Five power projects with a capacity of 1816 MW. including three power projects in the Central Sector are being implement in the Uttar Pradesh as on 30.5.97.

(b) and (c) Details of power projects in the Uttar Pradesh on which work has been stopped and the reasons therefor are given as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Capacity (MW)	Status
	Private Sector	
1.	Vishnu Prayag HEP (400)	Project posed to Pvt. Sector. The techno-economic clearance for the project was given by CEA in June. 1997.
2.	Srinagar HEP (30)	Project posed to Pvt. Sector. Detailed Project Report returned by CEA as certain inputs were not tied up.
	State Sector	
3.	Ladhwar Vyasi HEP (420)	Work held up for want of Funds.
4.	Maneri Bhali-II HEP (304)	Work held up for want of Funds.

(d) An amount of Rs. 32.49 crores has been incurred on the Vishnu Prayag HE Project upto the year 1995-96. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 1614.66 crores.

(e) At present, there are 28 power stations in Uttar Pradesh including 8 power stations from the Central Sector.

(f) Energy generated from these stations in U.P. during 1995-96 & 1996-97 was 63457 MUs and 65779 MUs respectively.

Modernisation of Railway Protection Force

2649. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI A. SAMPATH :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force has been provided with outdated weapons;

(b) the nature of facilities demanded by the Inspector General of Railway Protection Force and Chief Security Commissioner of South Eastern Railway;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to modernise/ revamp the Railway Protection Force;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives with the State Governments to discuss problems in effective protection of Railway property and ensure safety to passengers?

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the details of action plan for 1997-98 and the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise and for Maharashtra in particular

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.